

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08912 111004Z

ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /053 W

-----085137 111013Z /20

O P 110933Z JUL 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1464

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8912

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: TAIWAN TRAWLERS BRINGING INDOCHINA REFUGEES TO HONG KONG

REF: HONG KONG 8525 AND 8709

1. HONG KONG POLITICAL ADVISOR WILSON ASKED CONSUL GENERAL IF WE HAD MANY INFORMATION REGARDING TAIWAN TRAWLERS REPORTEDLY IN VIETNAMESE WATERS. THERE IS SOME CONCERN HERE THAT ADDITIONAL LARGE GROUPS OF REFUGEES MAY ARRIVE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS IN TAIWAN BOATS, FURTHER STRAINING HONG KONG'S LIMITED ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY.

2. HONG KONG 8525 REPORTED ARRIVAL 135 REFUGEES LAST WEEK ON TWO TAIWAN FISHING BOATS WHICH ALLEGEDLY WERE SEIZED BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES ON CHARGE OF ENTERING VIETNAMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. CREW WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT THIS AND CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN HELD FOR THREE WEEKS AND WERE ALLOWED TO DEPART ON CONDITION THAT REFUGEES BE BROUGHT TO HONG KONG. REFUGEES WHO WERE LANDED HAVE MAINTAINED THIS ACCOUNT IS TRUE AND THAT THERE ARE ADDITIONAL SEIZED TAIWAN FISHING BOATS IN DANANG HARBOR. HONG KONG 8709 REPORTED ARRIVAL 339 REFUGEES ON TAIWAN TRAWLER UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES,

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BUT AGAIN IT WAS TAIWAN BOAT.

3. THERE IS SOME SUSPICION HERE THAT TAIWAN BOATS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN SEIZED, BUT RATHER HAVE BEEN ENGAGED BY SINO-VIETNAMESE SYNDICATE TO FERRY PERSONS FROM DANANG TO HONG KONG. FROM WHAT RECENT ARRIVALS HAVE TOLD US, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO DIFFICULTY IN BRIBING

VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IN DANANG TO ALLOW DEPARTURES.

4. HAS EMBASSY HEARD ANYTHING IN THIS REGARD? SPECIFICALLY
HAVE THERE BEEN ANY REPORTS OF TAIWAN FISHING BOATS
RECENTLY SEIZED AND BEING HELD BY THE VIETNAMESE?
ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY COULD DEVELOP WOULD BE MOST
HELPFUL.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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